

certainly should not be put with foals, they should not be put with mares, and they most certainly should not be put with other stallions, because they fight.

So we have these horses being purchased by killer buyers, transported up to 30 hours, and many times longer than 30 hours, without food, water or exercise, in cramped trailers, fighting each other, kicking each other, biting each other, killing each other, all the way to Texas. So that is another reason that we want to stop this process.

In addition to that, anyone that has actually seen the slaughter cannot help but be disgusted with the way it is done, because a captive bolt is used, in which the horse's head is really not restrained, and it is administered by untrained or unprofessional people. These horses have to be shot three or four times, frequently.

I do not want to describe the scene, because it would make most people sick to see these animals being jolted, falling down, trying to get up.

So it is an inhumane practice, it is against Texas State law, yet this French family and this Belgian family have filed a lawsuit in Federal Court, and they have got it tied up in court. That is another reason we decided to introduce this legislation is to help Texas enforce its own law.

So we find ourselves with a situation of the Texas legislature saying you cannot slaughter horses in Texas, it is against our agricultural code and it is a crime, and yet it is being done today.

One other group that I would like to point out, at least the political arm of this group, which has expressed its opposition to H.R. 857, is the American Equine Practitioners. Their president is from Lexington, Kentucky, and he is a veterinarian. He has made the statement that using the captive bolt is a humane way to kill a horse.

But we went over to the Senate and we had a meeting with Senator JOHN ENSIGN, who is also a veterinarian. After hearing the debate, Mr. ENSIGN decided he was going to introduce legislation to prohibit the slaughter or transportation of horses to slaughter. So he is supporting H.R. 857.

I might add, we have veterinarians from all over the country, we have veterinarians from all over the country who are writing in in support of this legislation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Except as provided in clause 1(b) of rule XVII, the gentleman will refrain from referencing individual Senators.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I thank the Speaker.

So we have veterinarians from all over the country that are writing in in support of this legislation. We have the owners of quarter horses writing in supporting this legislation, and we have their political arm opposed to it, but they do not like to talk about it publicly.

So in conclusion tonight, I simply would like to make this statement: We are continuing our efforts to obtain cosponsors of this legislation. I am quite confident we are going to eventually attain the number of 260 to 270 cosponsors. We are already at 230, and we have not made that big of an effort yet. We are hoping that when we get up to that number that the committee that has jurisdiction over this bill will allow it out.

But I think it is important that we have this debate because it is the first time that I am aware of that we have had a debate in the United States Congress on whether or not we should allow foreign companies to slaughter our horses to export to Europe for human consumption, in a nonhumane way, I might add.

Now, Matthew Scully is a former literary agent of the National Review and a part-time speech writer for President Bush; and he recently wrote a book entitled "Dominion." In this book, Mr. Scully made some statements that I think all of us would benefit from just thinking about.

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In his book, Mr. Scully affirms and I want to emphasize that word, "affirms," man's dominion over animals. But he also reminds us of our responsibility to animals.

To quote Mr. Scully, "The care of animals bring with it often complicated problems of economics, ecology, and science. But above all, it confronts us with questions of conscience. Many seem to have lost all sense of restraint toward animals, an understanding of natural boundaries, a respect for them as creatures with needs and wants and a place and purpose of their own. Too often, too casually, we assume that our interests always come first, and if it is profitable or if it is expedient, that is all we need to know. But sometimes we are called to treat animals with kindness, not because they have rights, not because they have power, not because they have any claim of equality, but in a sense because they do not have any of those things, because animals stand unequal and powerless before us.

It is true that the welfare of animals is not high on most people's priority list, and it maybe should not be. "But kindness to animals is among the humbler duties of human charity, though for just that reason it is among the more easily neglected. And it is true that there will always be enough injustice and human suffering in the world, and we are reminded of it every day, to make the wrong done to animals seem small and insignificant.

And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, perhaps that is part of the animals' role among us, simply to awaken humility and compassion in human beings. We have the power, we have the rights, and we have dominion over animals. That is precisely why I believe that the bill of the gentleman from New York (Mr.

SWEENEY), H.R. 857, is so important to our country. I look forward to this debate.

In closing, I am reminded of a comment made by my friend Russell Williams, who owns one of the biggest standardbred farms in Pennsylvania. He said, the slaughter of horses in H.R. 857 is not so much about horses, but it is more about us as people.

So I hope that the Members of this body will give some thought to this legislation. It has great momentum. It is moving on the other side of the Capitol in the Senate, and we have every expectation and hope that we can pass it and stop this sad part of our history as it relates to animals.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ISRAEL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of family illness.

Mr. SHADEGG (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending his daughter's graduation from the University of Southern California.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. McDERMOTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. ROYCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, May 20.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.